

## INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

The following section identifies the prevalent older architectural styles found in the City which date after the Colonial period and describes the architectural elements which that characterize each style. When proposing a change to a building in the Architectural Preservation District, the applicant should consider this stylistic information to ensure that the new design is sympathetic with the architectural characteristics of the existing building.

With the exception of two antebellum mansions and a few vernacular houses from the early through the late 19th century, the oldest surviving non-Colonial architectural buildings in Williamsburg are a few late nineteenth century and turn of the century Victorian houses in Peacock Hill and in the Colonial Extension subdivision. These houses exhibit the characteristics of the "free classic adaptation" sub-style of the **Queen Anne style**. The houses are generally two-story frame houses with cross side gables, wide porches, and simple classical or restrained Queen Anne decorative details. A few houses along Scotland Street and North Henry Street do exhibit more elaborate decorative details along the eaves and through the use of contrasting siding materials.

- ROOF:** Hipped with lower cross gables (usually with a dominant front-facing gable, side gables and sometimes a corner tower), Full-width front gable, Cross gables only, or Hipped with large front-facing gabled dormer; slate or tin shingles; classical cornice and pedimented gables.
- SIDING:** Weatherboards with shingles at upper story or in gables or sometimes mock half-timbering in gables, or weatherboards only.
- WINDOWS:** Two-over-two, one-over-one, or sometimes six-over-six; crescent or Palladian gable windows, sometimes; shutters, sometimes.
- DOOR:** Glazed or six-panel with sidelights and/or transom.
- COLOR:** Muted earthtones with contrasting trim and decorative details.
- PORCH:** Full-width, or wrap-around, deep porch with small gable pediment over steps and classical, carpenter gothic, or Queen Anne spindled details.
- FENCE:** Wrought iron or picket.



**245 North Henry Street (c.1910)**



**332 North Henry Street (c.1907)**

A substantial collection of early twentieth century **BUNGALOWS** are located along Capitol Landing Road, the eastern portion of the West Williamsburg subdivision, Braxton Court, in the area around the intersection of Jamestown Road and Griffin Avenue, and scattered about in other neighborhoods surrounding the Historic Area. These low, one-and-one-half story narrow houses were sided with wood shingles or weatherboards, have low gable, hip or hipped gable roofs, wide overhangs and exposed roof rafter tails along the eaves, and deep porches across the facade. Most of these survivors have lost original decorative siding and window details, but a few good examples remain on Capitol Landing Road.

- ROOF:** Low side gable with shed or gable dormer in front, Front gable without dormer, or Hip with hipped-gable dormer in front; wide roof overhangs along the eaves and over the gables; exposed roof rafter tails; wood or asphalt shingles.
- SIDING:** Shingles or weatherboards.
- WINDOWS:** Six-over-one, one-over-one.
- DOOR:** Glazed.
- COLOR:** Muted earthtone stain with whit trim and rafter tails.



**PORCH:** Full-width deep porch inset under roof or attached gable or hip-roof porch; supported by simple square columns or square columns on piers.

**500 Capitol Landing Road  
(c. 1926)**

**602 Capitol Landing Road  
(c. 1941)**



A smaller collection of early twentieth century **AMERICAN FOURSQUARE HOUSES** have survived and are located in Peacock Hill, the area to the west of Peacock Hill along Richmond Road and Armistead Avenue, the Colonial Extension subdivision, and along the upper portion of Jamestown Road. These boxy, two-story frame or masonry houses have hip or occasionally gable roofs, were sided with shingles and/or weatherboards, have wide porches, are two, three, or four bays wide, and often have a small dormer on each hip-roof facade.

- ROOF: Hip with hipped-gable dormer in front or on all sides; interior chimneys with occasionally one central interior chimney at the peak of the hip roof; tin or slate shingles.
- SIDING: Weatherboards or weatherboards with shingles at upper story over belt-course.
- WINDOWS: One-over-one, six-over-one.
- DOOR: Blazed.
- COLOR: Muted earthtones, with lighter trim, or pale "colonial" colors.
- PORCH: Attached full-width porch with hipped roof supported by square columns or square columns on piers.
- FENCE: Plank rails.

Most of the surviving older architectural structures outside the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area are **COLONIAL REVIVAL** houses. This popular style began to appear in the City's outlying neighborhoods at the turn of the century and gained popularity in the late 1920s and 1930s and post-World War II era. Colonial Revival houses in Williamsburg have four basic forms: one-and-one-half-story multi-dormered gambrel (Virginia Gambrel), one-and-one-half-story full-dormered gambrel (Dutch Colonial Revival), two-story gable, and one-and-one-half-story multi-dormered gable. The earlier examples of the "**Two-story gable**", "**Dutch Colonial Revival**" gambrel and "**Virginia Gambrel**" houses reflect the influence of national building trends and the builders' guides and catalogs of local builders. These houses have an abundance of classical architectural details; i.e. Palladian windows, dentil or modillion cornices, columns and pediments, sidelights and fanlights around doorways, and casement windows. Examples of this form can be seen in West Williamsburg Heights, College Terrace, Richmond Road, Jamestown Road, Chandler Court, Pollard Park, Indian Springs, Burns Lane, and Capitol Landing Road.



**404 South England Street (c. 1920)**



## **TWO-STORY GABLE COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE -- 1900 to 1940s**

ROOF: Gable or Hipped roof; classical cornice; slate or asphalt shingles.  
SIDING: Weatherboards.  
WINDOWS: Six-over-six, eight-over-eight, six-over-one, eight-over-one; classical proportions; Palladian accents and/or paired arcs in side gables; shutters.  
DOOR: Six-panel; classical door surrounds; sidelights and/or fanlight.  
COLOR: White or pale "colonial" colors with dark shutters.  
PORCH: Gable pediment hood or portico over stoop; side enclosed "sun room: and/or side porch.  
FENCE: White picket.

**711 Richmond Road  
(c. 1929)**



## **DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE -- 1920s to 1930s**

ROOF: Over-hanging gambrel with full-width shed dormer in front; slate shingles.  
SIDING: Weatherboards or sometimes shingles.  
WINDOWS: Six-over-six; eight-over-eight; six-over-one, eight-over-one; classical proportions; shutters.  
DOOR: Six-panel; classical door surround; sidelights and/or fanlight.  
COLOR: All white, with dark shutters and roof, or pale "colonial" colors.  
PORCH: Arched or gable pediment hood, or portico, or full-width porch inset under roof, or attached with shed roof.  
FENCE: White picket.

**606 College Terrace  
(c. 1929)**



## **VIRGINIA GAMBREL COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE -- 1930s to 1940s**

ROOF: Over-hanging gambrel; two, three or four dormered windows in line with front wall of house; end chimneys; slate shingles.  
SIDING: Weatherboards; brick end walls, occasionally.  
WINDOWS: Six-over-six; eight-over-eight; nine-over-nine; classical proportions; shutters.  
DOOR: Six-panel; classical door-surround; transom, occasionally.  
COLOR: All white with dark shutters and roof.  
PORCH: None.  
FENCE: White picket or plank rail.

Later Colonial Revival houses of the post- World War II era have simpler forms and

fewer architectural details. The most prevalent form of this period is the "**One-and-One-Half-Story Gable**". The largest concentrations of this form can be seen in the Pine Crest and West Williamsburg subdivisions.

ROOF: One-and-one-half-story gable with two gable dormers in front; classical cornice; end chimneys on more stylized examples; slate or asphalt shingles.  
SIDING: Weatherboards or shingles; brick end walls, occasionally.  
WINDOWS: Six-over-six; six-over-one; shutters.  
DOOR: Six-panel; classical door-surround and sometimes transom.  
COLOR: White or pale "colonial" colors with dark shutters.  
PORCH: Occasionally, gable pediment hood over stoop.  
FENCE: Picket.

More recent Colonial Revival houses have directly imitated buildings and features found in the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area or exhibit more of a **Georgian Revival** style appearance. Examples of the Georgian Revival style are evident in Yorkshire and The Woods, outside the APD, and examples of both the Historic Area imitations and the Georgian Revival style are appearing throughout the City as infill in older neighborhoods.

An often overlooked collection of architectural structures are the late nineteenth- century

and early twentieth-century **VERNACULAR** houses which exist as isolated rural houses and which are prevalent in surviving historic African-American and working-class neighborhoods in the City. Surviving examples within the Architectural Preservation District can be found in Braxton Court, in the area west of Peacock Hill, at the western end of the West Williamsburg subdivision, along South Henry Street, and scattered about the outlying areas of the old City. These small, simple frame houses appear in a wide variety of forms from elegant little shotgun-type bungalows and cross gable houses to awkward two-story gable houses to simple, functional, additive form houses.



**520 Jamestown Road (c. 1840-1869. c. 1898-1900)**



**110 Brooks Street (c. 1900)**

A growing number of houses in the city are being designed in a non-Colonial Revival, modern style. A few examples of modern houses are located in the Architectural Preservation District in Pine Crest, Capitol Heights, College Terrace, West Williamsburg, Indian Springs, the lower end of Burns Lane and along Griffin Avenue. Most of the modern houses are located outside the Architectural Preservation District in outlying subdivisions of the city, such as Matoaka Court, Skipwith Farms, Forest Hills, the Wales subdivision, Mimosa Drive, The Coves, Port Anne, Yorkshire, Walnut Hills, Richneck Heights, the lower end of Burns Lane and the Ludwell Place subdivision. Examples of the **RANCH HOUSE** and **SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE** styles, which became popular in the 1950s, are present throughout these neighborhoods. A smaller number of **CONTEMPORARY** style houses, which became popular in the 1960s and 1970s are scattered about these neighborhoods with the majority of the examples of this style present outside the Architectural Preservation District. An even smaller number of houses in the city are of the CALIFORNIA SHED style, which became popular in the 1970s and 1980s. Examples of this style are mainly confined to The Coves and the Walnut Hills area, but isolated examples can be found scattered about the city. The most recent variety of modern houses found in the developing subdivision at Port Anne might be called **ABSTRACT HISTORICAL ECLECTIC**. These houses are asymmetrical, multi-volumed forms sheathed in a multitude of abstracted historical motifs but borrowing mainly from the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne traditions.